

The Northwest Campaign 1778-1779

Lt. Governor Henry Hamilton administered the area between the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and the Great Lakes from the British post at Fort Detroit. When Clark implemented his plan to secure the outlying posts for the American cause, Hamilton took action.

Clark's route, Redstone to Kaskaskia, May 12-July 4, 1778

Clark and his Virginia militiamen floated 900 miles down the Monongahela and Ohio rivers, stopping at Corn Island to train for most of June. Near the ruins of Fort Massac, they headed overland, marching 120 miles to Kaskaskia.

Hamilton's route, Fort Detroit to Vincennes, October 7-December 17, 1778

Hamilton, British troops, and Indian allies floated across Lake Erie, up the Maumee River, across the portage to the Wabash River, and down the Wabash to Vincennes, a total of 600 miles.

Clark's route, Kaskaskia to Vincennes, February 5-23, 1779

Clark marched 180 miles through the prairies and flooded river valleys of the Illinois country.

